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ABSTRACT

This bibliography includes articles and books that discuss the theory behind study circles, describe successful study circle programs, and explain how to develop reading materials for study circles. Some of the entries discuss related subjects such as how people learn in groups, democracy, public opinion, and issue forums. Researchers, adult educators, and program and education directors may find this bibliography relevant. There are 35 articles and books listed. Each listing includes the complete title, author, publisher, publication date, a description, and length. Copies of these materials are available from the Study Circles Resource Center, unless otherwise noted. Most listings are written about the United States with some from Sweden. (NLA)

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STUDY CIRCLES
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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This bibliography includes articles and books that discuss the theory behind study circles, describe successful study circle programs, and instruct on how to develop reading material for study circles. Some of the entries discuss related subjects such as how people learn in groups, democracy, public opinion, and issue forums. Among those who may find this bibliography interesting are researchers, adult educators, and program and education directors.

Copies of these materials are available from the Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC) unless otherwise noted. The price is five cents per page except where a price is quoted.

Atlee, Tom. "Using the 1990s to Transform American Politics." *Thinkpeace*, January/February 1990.

A newsletter article that describes a variety of initiatives promoting dialogue, discussion, listening and the formation of "communities of concern," including study circles. 4 pages.

Bensman, David. "BAC's Comeback: The Bricklayers' Renewal Program." *Labor Research Review* #12, Fall 1988.

A very readable piece about the revival of the Bricklayers' and Allied Craftsmen's International Union, including a three-page section that describes BAC's study circle program. Includes excellent descriptions of successful study circles in union locals, as well as a discussion of difficulties in using study circles. 10 pages.

Blid, Henry. *Education By the People: Study Circles*. Ludvika, Sweden: Brunnsviksskolorna, 1983.

Blid has extensive experience with study circles and has written voluminously about them. This short book begins by describing the origin and history of study circles in Sweden. The bulk of the book is a detailed treatise on the theory and practice of study circles. 92 pages.

Blid, Henry. *On Learning in Study Circles*. Unpublished chapter forthcoming as part of a book to be published by the Swedish National Board of Education.

Perhaps the most detailed article-length description of the study circle process and why study circles are effective. 12 pages.

Bouton, Clark and Garth, Russell Y., Editors. *Learning in Groups* (#14 in the "New Directions for Teaching and Learning" series). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1983.

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This short book contains 10 articles about cooperative learning, group learning, and innovative ways of using groups to enhance learning. One of the articles is about the use of study circles in colleges in New York State, and several others discuss the theory of cooperative learning that underlies study circles. 108 pages. Available from Jossey-Bass, Inc., 433 California St., San Francisco, CA 94104, (415) 433-1767. Price: $7.95.

Bouton, Clark and Garth, Russell Y. "Students in Learning Groups: Active Learning Through Conversation." From *Learning in Groups*, Ed. C. Bouton and R. Y. Garth. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1983.

A journal-type article about the value of learning in groups. "Students need the opportunity to formulate questions and insights as they occur and to test them in conversation with others." Not about study circles per se. 9 pages.

Bouton, Clark and Garth, Russell Y. "The Learning Group: What It Is and Why It May Be Better." *American Association of Higher Education Bulletin*, September 1982.

A one-page summary of the previous article. The focus is on how people learn and the benefits of learning through discussion.

Brevskolan. *The Study Circle: A Brief Introduction*. Stockholm, Sweden: Brevskolan, 1980.

This short pamphlet (lots of white space and illustrations) provides an excellent and inspiring introduction to study circles. The pamphlet describes study circles, explains their historical background and current practice in Sweden, and goes into the theory of learning behind them. 23 pages.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen International Union. *Building Union Democracy: The BAC Study Circle Program*. Executive Summary of the Final Report of the 1986 Pilot Study Circle Program. Washington, DC: BAC, December 1986.

This report describes in detail the successful study circle pilot program that involved 27 groups at union locals. It describes how the program was set up and the results, including quotations from participants. An appendix presents results of professional polling done among members of the union that tries to measure the impact of the study circles. 35 pages.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen International Union. "Study Circles: Business Agent View" and "No-Holds-Barred During Study Circles." *BAC Journal*, July 1988.

These brief newspaper-type columns describe two different aspects of the BAC study circle program. 2 pages.

Chemical Workers International Union. "Could 10,000 Yearly Workplace Deaths Be Reduced to 300: Learning From the Swedish Experience." *Chemical Worker*, October 1989. Also, "Study Circle Model Has Applications for U.S. Trade Unionists: Learning From the Swedish Experience." *Chemical Worker*, January 1990.

These articles in the magazine of the International Chemical Workers Union describe study circles and how they have been used by unions in Sweden, and discuss efforts to use them in unions in the U.S. The focus is on health and safety concerns. 2 pages each.

Chiddister, Diane and Hurley, Mary. "National Issues Forum: Unique Educational Experiment Produces Surprising Results." *Corrections Today*, June 1987.

Describes the National Issues Forum's study circles and forums held in prisons, focusing on the Westville Correctional Center in northern Indiana. A well-written article, full of quotations, that shows that issue forums and study circles can be used in unlikely places. 3 pages.

Davis, James A. *Great Books and Small Groups*. New York, NY: The Free Press of Glencoe (a division of The Crowell-Collier Publishing Co.), 1961.

"This book is concerned with the factors that keep people in the Great Books program from one year to the next. . . . The data come from a national sample of almost 2,000 Great Books participants, members of 172 discussion groups." An academic study that may be of interest to researchers analyzing the factors that contribute to success in small-group discussion programs. 240 pages. Available through your local bookstore. Price: $35.00.

Eiger, Norman. "Worker Education in Sweden: A Force for Extending Democratic Participation." *Scandinavian Review*, Spring 1988.

Eiger, Director of the Labor Education Center at Rutgers University, describes the various labor organizations that provide adult education programs for both blue-collar and salaried employees. Study circles are the centerpiece of labor education in Sweden. He explains the programs under which the Swedish government funds these programs. This very readable article shows how Swedish society is organized to continually educate workers. 10 pages.

Eiger, Norman. "The Workplace as Classroom for Democracy: The Swedish Experience." *New York University Education Quarterly*, Summer 1982.

In this article Eiger focuses more on the power that Swedish unions and workers have gained and the importance of education for the exercise of that power. It is more academic in tone. Eiger looks at the question of democracy-or its lack-in the workplace and its impact on the worker and the society. 8 pages.

Finkel, Donald L. and Monk, Stephen G. "Teachers and Learning Groups: Dissolution of the Atlas Complex." From *Learning in Groups*, Ed. C. Bouton and R. Y. Garth. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1983.

An interesting article about the frustrations that teachers encounter when they take complete responsibility for their students' learning. The authors suggest that teachers step back and allow students to interact more directly, which will cause students to be more engaged in the learning process. "The various functions that enhance teaching can be differentiated and shared in various ways with students to enhance learning." 17 pages.

Fund for Adult Education. *How to Organize and Manage a Series of Adult Study Discussion Programs* and *Participating in an Adult Discussion Series: Some Questions and Answers*. Pasadena, CA: The Fund for Adult Education, 1955.

It is amazing how relevant these 35-year-old guides still are. The Fund for Adult Education was established and funded by the Ford Foundation in the 1950s and '60s to set up study circles. These guides are well-written and sophisticated. They will be of

interest to those who are curious about the antecedents to study circles in modern America. 23 pages and 13 pages, respectively. Not available from the SCRC.*

Fund for Adult Education, American Foundation for Political Education, and The Great Books Foundation. *The Future of Study-Discussion Programs*. Pasadena, CA: The Fund for Adult Education, 1958.

This little booklet gives the theory and history of "study-discussion" programs starting after World War II. It tells about the development and funding of the three organizations that issued this "joint statement" and concludes with reflections on the future of their programs and the organizations. 22 pages. Not available from SCRC.*

Kurland, Norman D. "The Scandinavian Study Circle: An Idea for the U.S." *Lifelong Learning: The Adult Years*, February 1982.

Kurland, former Executive Director of Adult Learning Services in the New York State Education Department helped found the Study Circle Consortium in Albany NY. Here he discusses the potential for study circles in America and describes efforts made in the early 1980s to establish study circle programs in New York State. 7 pages.

McNutt, Bill. "Cooperatives in North America Get Start in Antigonish, Nova Scotia," and "Cooperatives Branch Out". *Buckeye Farm News*, October and November 1989.

McNutt was Director of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's Education Department which has used study circles (their term is "advisory councils") for over 50 years. These articles discuss the use of study circles by depression-stricken fishermen in Nova Scotia in the 1920s and '30s. They describe the work of the Cody International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, where training is provided for community organizers from the third world in the use of study groups and cooperative community action to help people help themselves. 3 pages.

Minnesota Study Circle Network. *Democracy in Action: Lifelong Learning and Citizenship in Sweden and the United States*. Minneapolis, MN: Metronet.

This report describes a conference held in October 1988 that featured eight Swedish adult educators engaged in a "traveling seminar" around the U.S. The report describes popular adult education in Sweden and summarizes a panel discussion on "democracy in action" in the U.S. It includes a bibliography. 24 pages. Available from Minnesota Study Circle Network, c/o Metronet, 226 Metro Square Building, St. Paul, MN 55101, (612) 224-4801. Price: $1.00.

National Issues Forums (NIF). *Forums and Study Circles Guide*. Dayton, OH: Kettering Foundation, 1990.

Presented in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format, this little pamphlet provides a brief and clear introduction to forums and study circles as they are used by the National Issues Forums. NIF also produces three excellent "issue books" each year as reading material for use by their forums and study circles. 16 pages. Available at no charge from NIF, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, OH 45459-2777, (800) 433-7834 or (513) 434-7300.

New York State Education Department, Bureau of Home Economics and Technology Education. *Action Education: Using Study Circles to Build Student Leadership Teams.* Albany, NY: New York State Education Department, 1990.

This guide begins with an excellent introduction to study circles, using a clear and simple question-and-answer format. Then it discusses group behavior, building cohesion and trust, and leadership, including exercises and guidelines for teachers. The final one-third of the guide is oriented toward integrating study circles into home and career skills curriculum. This is an activity-oriented, nuts-and-bolts guide. 60 pages. Available at no charge from NY State Education Dept., Bureau of Home Economics and Technology Education, One Commerce Plaza Room 1619, Albany, NY 12234, (518) 474-3954.

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. *Farm Bureau Starter Packet.*

The packet describes the Ohio Farm Bureau's study circle (advisory council) program and contains detailed instructions about starting a council. It contains an excellent four-page brochure. This 50 year-old program includes thousands of farmers and their families in Ohio. Also included are several two-page issue summaries which serve as the basis for the monthly discussions. Roughly 25 pages. Available from Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Education Department, 35 E. Chestnut St., Box 479, Columbus, OH 43216, (614) 249-2472. Price: $1.00.

Oliver, Leonard P. "The American Way Revisited: John W. Studebaker." *Kettering Review*, Spring 1986.

Describes Studebaker's work in creating public issues forums, first in Des Moines IA, and later as U.S. Commissioner of Education all over the country. The Studebaker forums were funded by the U.S. government and involved hundreds of thousands of people a year at their height in the 1930s. The forums used a lecture format and were not study circles. 9 pages.

Oliver, Leonard P. *The Art of Citizenship: Public Issue Forums.* Dayton, OH: The Kettering Foundation, 1983.

This booklet is an overview of public forums for civic education and issue discussion throughout U.S. history. "Some general consideration of early movements precedes more important studies of six American movements in the last 50 years." Swedish study circles are also discussed. There are analyses of each of the case studies and a conclusion that looks at the lessons to be drawn from them. An invaluable resource for a researcher or one who wants to understand American antecedents for study circles. 42 pages.

Oliver, Leonard P. *Study Circles: Coming Together for Personal Growth and Social Change.* Cabin John, MD: Seven Locks Press, 1987.

The bible of the "study circle movement" (if there is one) in the U.S., this superb 165-page book is a report on study circles as they have been integrated into Swedish national life with an extensive history of their development and precursors in the U.S. Oliver also describes in depth two study circle programs in the U.S., that of the National Issues Forum and the Bricklayers Union. 165 pages. Available through your local bookstore. Price: $9.95.

Osborne, Karen Quallo. "Learning Beyond the Classroom." From *Learning in Groups*, Ed. C. Bouton and R. Y. Garth. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1983.

This excellent short article explains what study circles are and describes their use in seven colleges in New York State. In addition to explaining how study circles can be used in the college classroom, Osborne includes several short case studies about use of study circles by different types of people at different schools. 7 pages.

Osborne, Karen Quallo, and Shevat, Renee Scialdo. "Study Circles: Personal and Professional Fulfillment for Employees." *Management Review*, June 1982.

Osborne was the director of the Study Circle Project at the State University of New York. This article is a lively report on how companies can use study circles to "improve workers' motivation and job performance, while helping them fulfill social and educational needs." It contains brief, anecdotal descriptions of how study circles have been used by a variety of American and Swedish companies, and is extremely interesting. 6 pages.

Study Circle Consortium. *Study Circle Facilitator Training Manual.* Albany NY: The State University of New York.

Designed to be used in conjunction with a training program, this manual describes the role of the leader in detail. The explanation of study circles is also quite good and clear. An appendix outlines a training plan with an agenda and includes evaluation forms. Very useful for anyone engaged in training discussion leaders. 24 pages.

Study Circle Consortium. *The Circling World Newsletter.* Albany, NY: The Study Circle Consortium, January 1984.

The first-and last-newsletter put out by the Study Circle Consortium, a forerunner to the Study Circles Resource Center. This newsletter is interesting in that it describes a wide variety of study circle activity-most of it in New York State-that was occurring at that time. 6 pages.

Study Circle Project of the State University of New York (SUNY). *The Rainbow Starts Here: A Study Guide for Community Development.* Albany, NY: SUNY, 1980.

This is a guide for developing a program to solve problems in any community by using a study circle. It provides a brief introduction to study circles and community development, and then launches into a series of workshops and discussions that determine the focus for the study circle and work through the issues that concern the participants. 38 pages.

Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC). *Portfolio/Starter Kit.* Pomfret, CT: Topsfield Foundation, January 1990.

An introductory packet that explains study circles and their pedagogy and provides detailed guidelines for developing and carrying out your own study circle program. Includes pamphlets "An Introduction to Study Circles" (16 pages), "Guidelines for Organizing and Leading a Study Circle" (28 pages), and "Guidelines for Developing Study Circle Course Material" (26 pages), and short briefs. Free of charge from SCRC.

Turner, William. *Ohio Farm Bureau Story 1919-1979.* Columbus, OH: Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, 1982.

A few scattered pages in this book describe the formation and functioning of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's Advisory Councils, which are essentially study circles. This program is of note because it is 50 years old and is quite large, involving thousands of farmers and their families. 347 pages. The book is no longer in print, but SCRC can provide photocopies of the 12 relevant pages.

Yankelovich, Daniel. "How the Public Learns the Public's Business." *Kettering Review*, Winter 1985.

A very readable interview with the dean of American opinion researchers about the distinction between public opinion and public judgement and the impediments to citizen participation in shaping public policy. While not about study circles, this article articulates the concerns behind the desire to see study circles widely used in the U.S. 11 pages.

* The Archives of the Fund for Adult Education were transferred to the Ford Foundation in 1963. If you want FAE materials or information about FAE, contact the Ford Foundation Archivist, 320 East 43rd Street New York, NY 10017, (212) 573-5231.

May 15, 1990